Testimony to CT General Assembly Energy & Technology Committee
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Glastonbury, CT
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Senator Duff, Representative Reed and distinguished members of the committee, I am here today to respectfully ask you to support Senate Bill 5409 with the caveat that you amend the language to also ban the disposal, storage, treatment and handling of hydraulic fracking waste, and any treated or recycled by-products.

- Classifying fracking waste as hazardous waste is the right direction, improving labeling for transport & restricting disposal., but this alone will not protect the health & safety of CT residents.

- Regulation won't prevent radiation or contamination.

- The Safe Drinking Water Act exemption means many toxins in fracking waste are not disclosed. Proprietary claims make it impossible to know how to safely handle and treat this material.

- Recycled fracking waste is *partially* treated and does not remove all contaminants. Recycled waste is *not* well regulated. PA & NY don't measure radioactivity prior to dispersing brine on roads as de-icing agent.

- Without a ban, municipalities can unwittingly purchase re-labeled by-products of fracking waste and then contaminate the roads, front lawns, farmland, fisheries and waterways of their town.

- Accidents, spills, leaks, inadequate treatment and illegal dumping are the realities and everyday occurrences of fracking, happening at alarming rates due to the vast volumes of waste produced.

- Highly contaminated, radioactive fracking waste that has been rejected for disposal in PA & NY is being stored at numerous locations. If we pass a law to reclassify it only, DEEP may soon be flooded with permit applications seeking disposal in CT, a much closer location than Idaho, the available alternative.

- Bringing this industry to CT will radically transform our daily life. I visit family members several times a year in Pennsylvania and can tell you first hand that the roads and highways there are now overwhelmed with trucks. Sometimes more industrial-sized trucks surround you than passenger cars. Exhaust and ozone problems are extreme, as is the noise from braking systems. This industry operates 24/7, so trucks are clogging the roads day and night.

- PA roads are crumbling under the weight of frequent, heavy loads and in need of repeated repair.

- Accidents from trucks carrying toxic, radioactive fracking waste would cause serious challenges for first-responders and Haz-Mat teams due to unknown chemicals and levels of radioactivity. Material safety data sheets are deficient and inadequate in providing complete information.

- The local air quality impact over time would be measureable hundreds of feet down the plume from a spill. Over hours or days, individuals living nearby may breathe in contaminants from the

plume. It's not possible to attribute the cause of a given health outcome to such exposure, but there is no doubt that exposure history could contribute to the molecular and cellular conditions of diverse diseases.

- In discussing exposure to radioactivity, Radisav R. Vidic, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Pittsburgh plainly states, *"The potential pathway is an accident, a spill or a leak...That's something that happens...there is nothing you can do about it."*

- Sampling is an inadequate method of monitoring. DEEP does not have resources and a third party system would be a weak link, and also require monitoring that DEEP cannot achieve. When a fracking wastewater truck makes it to treatment facility, they will not know what they are dealing with from one batch to the next. This will make it virtually impossible for facilities to know if they are adequately treating wastewater before discharging it.

- Studies downstream of treatment discharges in the Monongahela and Alleghany Rivers and Blacklick Creek show significant chemical and radioactive contamination. Quotes from Duke University researchers who completed the 2 year Blacklick study, Drs. Vengosh and Jackson:

  "There's the danger of bioaccumulation of the radium. It will eventually end up in fish and that is a biological danger." "Years of disposal of...wastewater with high radioactivity has created potential environmental risks for thousands of years to come." "Once you have a release of fracking fluid into the environment, you end up with a radioactive legacy."

- **When asked if local citizens should be concerned,** Dr. Jackson replied, *"If I lived there, I would be concerned about wastewater and wastewater products. The public should be concerned...anything they can do to reduce the amount of public wastewater exposure, they should be doing."*

Here in CT, we can reduce our exposure and protect the health & safety of residents by prohibiting the disposal, storage, treatment and sale of fracking waste and it's constiuents, along with classifying fracking waste and recycled/treated waste as hazardous waste.

The industry is spinning a PR statement that it would be hypocritical for CT to purchase natural gas and refuse the importation of fracking waste. Nothing could be further from the truth. The issues of utilizing shale gas and handling the by-products of drilling are separate & distinct, and there is no requirement for customers of shale gas to accept waste products. Gas is a commodity, fully paid for. When purchasing electricity produced by coal-fired power plants, customers aren't obliged to take in shipments of coal ash.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the more than 14,000 Food & Water Watch members in CT.

Signed,

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